

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Gardner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,780,340); rejected claims 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sugawara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,171,916); rejected claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gardner et al. in view of Stanley Wolf and Richard N. Tauber, Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Vol. I, Lattice Press, 1986, pp. 551-555 ("Wolf"); and rejected claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugawara et al. Claims 13-23 were allowed.

By this amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-12 and 24-31. Therefore, the claim rejections are rendered moot, and the remaining claims are claims 13-23, indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action of October 6, 2005.

Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 6, 2006

By: _____


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Attachments: **Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal**
Petition for Extension of Time